OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1
Command Serial Number:
Date Submitted:

Classification (when filled in): UNCLASSIFIED

# Command Operations Report

This report is required by commands listed in SNDL Parts 1 & 2 and all operational Task Forces. Groups and Units temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. Instructions on submitting this form and the required attachments are at the end.

#### 1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: Riverine Squadron TWO

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: N40542

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: Vecerkauskas First: Michael M.L.

Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2012-02-24

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: Mobile Sea Command providing Expeditionary Riverine forces to conduct littoral security and combat operations throughout the Middle East and Fleet AORs.

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): Little Creek, VA

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Riverine Group ONE

Administrative: Riverine Group ONE

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): CTG 56.4

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): RIVDETs 21, 22, 23

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: 0

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): 0

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 22 Enlisted: 198 Civilian: 0

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

(b) (6)

Command Mailing Address: COMMANDING OFFICER RIVERINE SQUADRON TWO 2340 AMPHIBIOUS DR, STE 125 NORFOLK, VA 23521-2843

### 2. Commander's Assessment

The Commander's Assessment briefly tells the story of the command's role in national defense and should highlight any general and specific lessons-learned. It should contain the commander's commentary, insights and reflections on the unit's activities. Attention should be directed to significant issues impacting training, operations and mission accomplishment during the reporting period. Descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to major command decisions and results of those decisions are particularly desired. Also desired are accounts of specific contributions of individuals in the command to mission accomplishment. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, particular attention should be given to the commander's estimate of the situation, records of discussions and decisions, descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to operational decisions and results of those decisions. For a unit returning from deployment or participating in a single operation this can normally be a single assessment. For higher-echelon commands or units engaging in multiple operations, a separate assessment for each operation in addition to an overall assessment may be appropriate.

From its establishment in 2007, RIVRON TWO has provided the United States the ability to project power along waterways, far from the reaches of traditional naval and

amphibious forces. Beginning in October 2007, RIVRON TWO deployed to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Throughout their eight months in country, RIVRON TWO conducted 600 combat missions, 430 Riverine combat patrols, and 196 combat convoys. While conducting shoreline sweeps, they discovered 43 major weapons caches buried by insurgents, significantly reducing the enemy capability to attack coalition and Iraqi forces. During this deployment, Squadron TWO was given responsibility for all rivers, lakes, and shoreline in Multi-National Forces WEST. Expanding Squadron TWO's area of responsibility was a significant milestone, proving that the fledging Riverine force could effectively enable a combined force in a combat zone as battlespace managers.

Beginning in May 2009, RIVRON TWO Riverine Squadron TWO arrived in Iraq for their second deployment. Multi-National Forces-Iraq re-assigned the Riverines to Multi-National Division SOUTH. Riverine Squadron TWO relocated the entire Force 65 days ahead of schedule to Basra to begin a new chapter of the Riverine mission. Over the span of two months, two hundred and twenty-five Riverines, thirteen boats, and more than sixty trucks made the 421 mile journey down to Basra and Camp BUCCA to stabilize the Shatt al-Arab river. The Shatt al-Arab is a 120 mile river, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris in the vicinity of the city Basra and has long been a disputed territory as it constitutes the border between Iraq and Iran down to the mouth of the river as it discharges into the Persian Gulf. The Riverine mission in Southern Iraq saw the Riverines partnering with the U.S. Army. They conducted presence patrols, counter indirect fire patrols, assisted in the discovery and removal of weapons caches, and began training and partnering missions with the Iraqi Army (IA), Iraqi Police Service-River Patrol (IPS-RP), and the Iraqi Coastal Border Guard (CBG). Shortly after Riverine Squadron TWO relocated to Multi-National Division SOUTH, later re-named U.S. Division-SOUTH

Following their return from Iraq, RIVRON TWO was the first unit to adopt the Riverine Command Boat in the fall of 2010, enhancing not only the inland waterway capabilities of the Navy, but adding a significant open ocean capability that can easily transition between green water and riparian environments. This capability was debuted in November 2011 with the first ever RCB deployment to the Middle East. Building on the success of this platform, the Navy expanded the number of RCBs to be placed in service and made the platform, and associated inshore and offshore missions, a focal point of the entire riverine community.

Throughout the command's history, it has lead the Riverine community in capability, professionalism, and performance. As the following chronology will attest, RIVRON TWO has maintained continuous operations, both deployed and at home, in support of our nation's defense.

# 3. Chronology and Narrative

Chronology should include dates of movements; local operations and training; exercises and operations (define acronyms and purpose of exercise or operation); installation of new weapons

systems or changes; major physical changes to facilities, ship or aircraft; Class A or B mishaps; port visits; unit awards received; reserve augmentation; and other significant operational or administrative events.

The short narrative should amplify chronology entries (such as objectives and results of exercises/operations; commander's evaluation of exercises/operations, etc). Entries may refer to an enclosure of this report without additional description if the enclosure sufficiently reports the incident/event. For all other entries, give the date or period in YYYY-MM-DD format and provide a brief narrative. All significant events during the reporting period are to be included.

02 FEB 2007 – Riverine Squadron TWO was established at a ceremony held at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Norfolk, VA.

APR 2007 - Command completes training at the Marine's School of Infantry in Camp Jejune, NC.

AUG 2007 - Completed Final Evaluation Problem and received command certification for deployment.

02 OCT 2007 - Depart for first deployment to the Al Anbar Province of Western Iraq.

22 MAY 2008 – Return to home port from deployment. Conducted more than 620 combat missions, over 200 shoreline sweeps and discovered 43 weapons caches buried by insurgents.

15 JUN 2008 - Completed Post deployment stand down and began training cycled in preparations for second deployment the following year.

15 MAR 2009 - FEP and Command certification for deployment.

02MAY 2009 - Depart Norfolk, VA for Second deployment to Iraq.

01 AUG 2009 – RIVRON TWO moved from Western Iraq to Basra, Iraq in the South on a mission to conduct partnered operations with ISF units in the Basrah Province. By conducting combined waterborne patrols and training with the Iraqi Army (IA), Iraqi Police Service-River Police (IPS-RP) and the Coastal Boarder Guard (CBG), RIVRON TWO increased the existing capabilities of these ISF units to interdict waterborne smuggling of lethal aid, deny Violent Extremist (VE) networks the use of provincial waterways and promote Iraqi Rule of Law. Additionally, RIVRON TWO provided a new capacity to security and stabilization operations through direct support of ISF units that operated near the water, yet had no organic waterborne operational capability. The new capabilities included waterborne insertion and extraction of ISF units, facilitating small island sweeps for VE activity and weapons caches, and providing waterborne security checkpoints.

15 NOV 2009 – RIVRON TWO turned over the helm of CTG 56.4 to RIVRON THREE in a Change of Command Ceremony at COB Basrah, Iraq.

18 NOV 2009 – Return to home port from deployment.

04 JAN 2010 – Command returns from Post Deployment Stand Down and enters the 2010 Training cycle.

26 APR 2010 – RIVRON TWO arrives in Port Everglades FL for participation in the City's Fleet Week until 3May.

24 May 2010 - DET 2 arrives in New York City for Fleet Week until 2 June.

18 JUN 2010 – DET 1, completes 5 months of Unit Level Training at various locations such as Ft. Eustis, Ft. Pickett and Camp Jejune, has completed their Pre-Deployment Training Cycle and Unit Level Training Assessment.

18 JUN 2010 – CDR Clay Wilson relieves CDR Ty Britt as Commanding Officer, Riverine Squadron TWO

JUL 2010 - DET 1 completed their Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

AUG 2010 – Majority of RIVRON TWO moves to FT. Knox, Kentucky to conduct sustainment training for Waterborne Patrols and Convoy Exercises at some of the few 360 degree live fire ranges found in the area.

16 AUG 2010 – RIVRON TWO departs on a Pre Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) to Iraq in preparation for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM until 24 August. The deployment, scheduled for Nov 2010, is later cancelled.

SEP 2010 – As part of the deployment certification process, RIVRON TWO participated in Operation Bold Spectrum, a Fleet Synthetic Training event held by 2nd Fleet to enhance readiness.

OCT 2010 – RIVRON TWO HQ element, DET 2 and DET 3 complete FEP and RIVRON TWO receives official deployment certification.

15 NOV 2010 - DET 1 enters the Sustainment Phase.

17 NOV 2010 – RIVRON TWO participates in "Riverine Day", providing friends and family of riverine sailors the opportunity to view equipment and ride on various riverine craft.

JAN 2011 – DET 2 commences a new Basic Phase after being designated as a Riverine Command Boat (RCB) detachment. RIVRON TWO is challenged with creating a new training cycle and mission sets for the new platform.

24 FEB 2011 – DET 3 performs Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) testing with Naval Surface Warfare Center Combatant Craft Division (NSWCCCD) in order to assess the viability of utilizing USVs in riverine operations.

- 2 MAR 2011 DET 1 Riverine Security Team (RST) provides support to the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMCITC) until 11 March. During this period, RST members act as a ground combat element during simulated foreign citizen and official interactions as part of NMCITC's Student Final Evaluation Problem.
- 14 MAR 2011 DET 2 performs the first long range navigation demonstration utilizing the RCB, sailing from Little Creek, VA, to Annapolis, MD.
- 28 MAR 2011 DET 1 provides a contingent of personnel to assist in Unmanned Ground Sensor (UGS) Testing a the Stennis Space Center in MS until 18Apr. These personnel are vital in establishing inter-agency lessons and procedures for the use of this versatile joint intelligence collection system.
- 16 MAY 2011 DET 21 and RIVRON TWO Headquarters participate in Exercise EMPIRE CHALLENGE, a joint exercise between Navy, Army and Marine Corps units, at Camp Lejuene, NC until 30 May.
- 31 MAY 2011 DET 2 demonstrates the ability of the RCB to operate from an amphibious ship, performing operational tests with USS OAK HILL (LSD 51)
- 6 JUN 2011 DET 2 and RIVRON TWO Headquarters perform a PDSS to Bahrain and a follow-on planning conference with CTF 56, in anticipation of a proposed deployment of the RCB to C5F.
- 29 JUL 2011 DET 2 completes FEP and the first Basic Phase utilizing the RCB platform.
- 8 AUG 2011 DET 2 performs RCB RADAR Cross Section testing with NSWCCCD until 11 August. These tests provide detailed information on the expected visibility of the craft on RADAR, and assist in planning future operations.
- 18 AUG 2011 DET 2 begins Security Force Training as part of a plan to expand the riverine force into providing security aboard high value assets during transits, as well as providing inport security for them if needed. Training is completed on 16 September.
- 26 SEP 2011 DET 2 is assigned contingency duties until 30 Sep to provide security as required for the transit of Moored Training Ship (MTS) 626 from Charleston, SC, to Norfolk VA.
- 10 OCT 2011 DET 2 participates in the Mobile Security Squadron (MSRON) EIGHT Fleet Synthetic Trainer, obtaining final certification for deployment.
- 25 OCT 2011 DET 2 transports two RCBs to Charleston, SC for onload and shipment to Bahrain via commercial freighter. This marks the first deployment of the RCB.
- 15 NOV 2011 DET 2 personnel deploy to the Fifth Fleet AOR for the first ever RCB deployment. The deployment is anticipated to fill capability gaps within the AOR.

JAN 2012 – DET 2 commences their first operational assignment in the Arabian Gulf, performing NAVCENT priority taskings.

JAN/FEB 2012 – DET 3 participates in Exercise BOLD ALLIGATOR, a two week joint amphibious exercise. The detachment establishes operations form Bogue Field MCAF, and Mile Hammock Bay, NC.

24 FEB 2012 – CDR Michael Vecerkauskas relieves CDR Clay Wilson as Commanding Officer, Riverine Squadron TWO.

# 4. Supporting Reports

Supporting Reports are those reports required by other instructions that provide significant data about the command during the calendar year. These reports may be submitted "as is," eliminating the need to duplicate information for this report that is already contained in reports prepared in response to other instructions and requirements. Examples include battle efficiency, safety and other award submissions, major staff or command studies, and end of cruise reports or briefs. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, enclosures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Situation Reports
- b. Intentions Messages
- c. Operational Reports
- d. Operations Orders/Deployment Orders
- e. Operational Plans
- f. Personal For Messages
- g. After Action Reports
- h. Significant Electronic Message Traffic (outgoing/e-mail/chat)
- i. Battle Damage Assessments
- j. Casualty Reports
- k. End-of-Cruse/Deployment Reports
- 1. Intelligence Summaries
- m. Major Exercise Reports

List below the items submitted, indicating the classification of each. Electronic reports should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF, or plain text. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Submit electronic reports via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

#### 5. Published Documents

List below the published documents being submitted in either electronic or paper format, indicating the classification of each item. Documents to be submitted include cruise books, change of command programs, commissioning/decommissioning brochures, establishment/disestablishment/deactivation brochures, copy of command's web site, news releases, biography of commander, welcome aboard brochures, newspaper articles, command studies, statistical data, etc.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access). HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

1. All Hands Magazine, September 2001

### 6. Photographs

List below official photographs and any other command-generated media being submitted in either electronic or paper format. Photographs to be submitted include: official photo of commanding officer; recent photo of ship, aircraft, or facility; and photos of historic events associated with the command. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Photographs in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained below. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in the same manner as the CD-ROM. Also include any photographs covering operational strikes, battle damage (especially that sustained by own ship, aircraft, facilities or equipment), or other relevant photos relating to combat or deployment operations.

1. RIVRON TWO Command Photograph, 01Nov2011

#### Submit this Command Operations Report as follows:

Via e-mail, to one of the three e-mail addresses:

All air/aviation commands: aviationhistory@navy.mil

All ships: shiphistory@navy.mil

All other commands: archives@navy.mil

Place any attachments too large for transmission via e-mail on CD-ROM and send by an approved commercial courier, such as FEDEX or UPS. Check CDs for readability before submission to guard against corruption. Forward paper records included as attachments in the same manner. Do not forward Command Operations Reports via U.S. mail, as all mail addressed to the Naval Historical Center is irradiated and will result in destruction of discs and damage to paper enclosures. Address all shipments to:

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(Attn: Ships History/Aviation History/Operational Archives) \*

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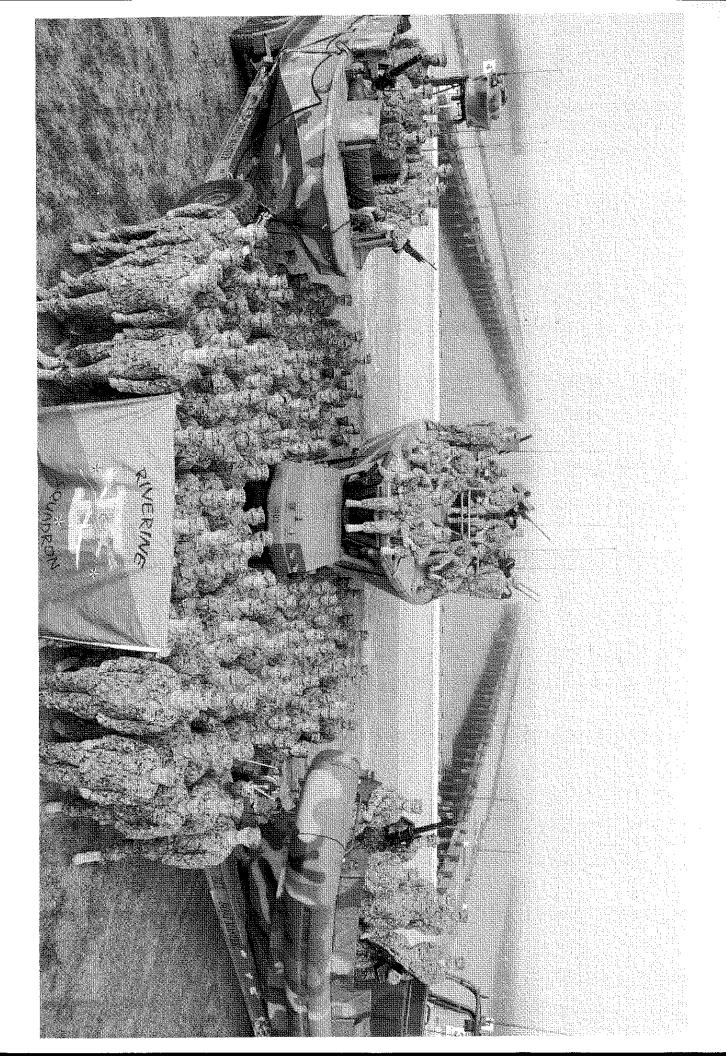
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The inner wrapper should read: ONI Historian, ONI-ODB EXT 2975

Telephone numbers for the ONI Historian are DSN 659-4488/5901, Commercial (301) 669-4488/5901.

\* The attention line should read Ships History for all ships, Aviation History for all air/aviation commands, and Operational Archives for all other commands. Telephone numbers for these branches are as follows: Ships History Branch, DSN 288-6802, Commercial (202) 433-6802; Aviation History Branch, DSN 288-2321, Commercial (202) 433-2321; Operational Archives Branch, DSN 288-3224, Commercial (202) 433-3224.



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ascurrey forces to fit strategic needs.

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hreats to our nation's waterways and constlines at home and abroad are constantly evolving, reshaping how Americans have come to view national security. The military, the Navy specifically, is no different in that it continually reassesses its assets and determines various ways to deploy

Relating Constant Boats glass Rive the squidons the ability to make not only in rivers to a late out to over a proposal for the same cost at largions, sepanding the capabilities of command and control and the River in a quadrant maritims security reach with the maritims security reach with the terminative fire power.

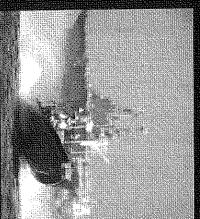
mund Rost (MCN), is pushing further into green-water (coestal) zones the gap between the brown-water (tires) and blue-water (open oversity putrel. The Novy's newest, state-of-the-art boat, the Riverine Conwhilted is the use of its riverine potrol tenns. The focus now is bridging One way in which the Mary's depleyment of security faces has

The RCB is a unique ir corration of the riverito mission, attached to Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's liverine Group J., Riverine Squadron 3. Demokrant 2 (RIVECN'S DET 2) bested on Join Expeditionary Bost Little Coed-Fort Sony, Vo. At the cone the Riverine Force is a combat-arms were that performs point-defense, for support and interdiction operations along coostal and inland waterways to

mand and control and the reverine squadrons marthine security reach.
"With the addition of the RCB platform we are now sole to potentially step cuty threat [to American stores]," said 14. Stephan Amitros officer-in-charge, BLYRON 2 DET 2. giving riverine squadrons the ability to travel not only it rivets, but also out to bays and crossal regions; enjanding the capabilities of comdafest exemise and support U.S. navel and ocalition forces.
The P.CD is a lethal supplement to their already measuring around.

by own water, referred to by coastal say arity reased as green water, The craft has proven the shifter to operate in between blue and

The takes the New year mission of mutitima security operations on antirely new spectrum of military operations," he added. "We taining the ability to operate in that ut ique and emitogloally important groginghic sore for longer periods of time and with more thre power can new deploy the ICB into forward operating areas as well main-



A 25 Acc Rigal Hull Inhered & Boar (RHIB), role paying as a to ent boat, during a training exolution, races by the USS Wast 11-10 to positioned of the chast of Kotriki, Via.

craining avoidtions. HRAZ RODBET SIMONS, britets the Riverage Command Boat crew prior to

The PCB is equipped with a trientacing array of weapons including a scale bet Ricage machine gue, electric motor african Gating gun, addarb ag automatic granade lawraba, twin, que aliber machine guns, air other Mackgo aal machine gun ord a remote operated specialiser gun

mity for security forces allow beats, creating a unique mission for the crew and a historical opportu The Wavy has princhessed a pair of these fast, bothed and versuche

said Hospital Corporan 2nd Class Robert Simons. Being the primary that my shipmenes and I have writed very hard on completing." detechment to be deployment ready has been a very challenging usk "It's an incredible hanor to be a first on a new piction; the ECK."

Summes and the RCB crew completed menths of training in prepa

ration for deployment. Many of the continuing requirements for these boots go beyond a normal riverine mission.

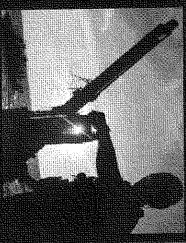
"We had a lot of recolling to complete in order to get us out or using traditional rewritte operations mixaked all the time," said Simons. "It has involved in selecting the way we think building on too of the riverine skill awe have he shy package as well as one of carefullities package as well."

Sharmes constituted, "We row have said interval factors to think about

served miles out to see lounding from an amplifying assentiship conducting a mission all the way up to a few betrof seator in a delta or like one state and weapons employment in the open ocean. With all the skills in our trained package, we can new project our capability from

"We're a double threat," seid Gunner's bluo Seannin Adain Heredia. "Although we work in the cossial environment conducting secor is geoutly, surveillance, and anti-pincy, we can still operate in a tradihonel regime environment.









According to Command Master Chief (AW) Alba Habert, RIVEN'N 2 DET 2 is a unique apportunity for young onlisted Sailors to brack out and take an additional responsibilities and get qualifications they would find on a surface combisted that, or any other commands.

"The RCB is like a commanded brought reserbar on a boat," said Herealta. "A ad I now know I made the best chates proside in my

Harsdish printery duty about it the BCB is to be a 55 -caliber genreer, elthough he has to be quelified and familiar with all weapons in their around just like any other grawmembra.

"Anything can happen, and we need to be able to operate every recipon as though it were our own." Her edin said. "As a gunner we have to be able to occurrent search the box captain and the consents other have a full, 350 elegate assumes as of what thresh are our fixer." The RCBs to quipped with an array of seconds that are may not enter any potential fees. The assumal trabless 7.52-calibe: M2469 marking gun an decision motore-driven Carling gun which first 2,000 tournds per minutes a Market's statement is greated becauches, twen 550-caliber marking gun and a Market's statement of M2.550-caliber marking gun and a

remote operated. She silber gim.

With its remailing the RCB serves as the primary beet in combat or petrolling missions. It can see as a combot information center, and can seen be certificated as an another seed, it is designed to land on a variety of shortlines, including will direct, and to thop of and extract personnel for an apy new.

The SCE's aftences and obtainings are a because for the escurity area, although each technical advances require a tremendous amount training end evaluation. One of their most recent training evaluation at the property of their property of the property of their property of the property of the property of the property of the SCE o

In this exercise the best source source light-value assets along with training exercises that reflect (prespectation and secrety evolutions at alects, including beach hadings (monitors and retrest source) on Beary scenario and drill adjects have the skilles of reserve ballers, enturing they are qualified, anisotro-roots) and capable of securing

In addition, to the NCP's printery ministen, the best in citic healing the way on here the theny will conduct business in the feature, including

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toward Riverine Charmand
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a night training avoidance.

The Navy's newest chare of the art boat, the Bleetine Command Boat, post is a force protection watch of the coast during a night training exolution.

